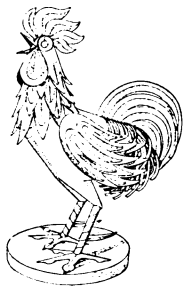


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## LETTERS

# to the editor

## Hearing aids

Sir:

May I thank you for your accurate and comprehensive reporting of our effort to secure the release of the tests on hearing aids (SN: 10/12, p. 360).

The Veterans Administration now indicates that its policy with reference to future tests in this field will be measurably altered.

This action will not disturb our suit which aims to establish the right of the public to the results of government consumer product testing.

*Colston E. Warne, President Consumers Union*

## Ask the dealer

Sir:

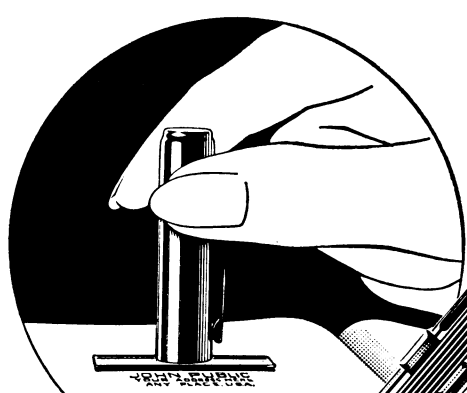
I read with considerable interest the article entitled "Hearing Aids" (SN: 10/12, p. 360).

Your readers would, I believe, benefit from some comments on the statement made in this article that if the layman had all of the information now in the hands of the Veterans Administration, he could select a hearing aid intelligently. The facts are first, that the National Bureau of Standards tests only a limited number of the many hearing aids that are offered in the United States and second, that the idea that the layman can take this information and solve his hearing aid selection problems is totally fallacious. The layman is just not equipped to understand the kind of technical information that is developed in the testing of hearing aids.

While the hearing aid industry and others interested in hearing aids have developed standard methods of testing hearing aids, there still remain many questions of interpretation as to what particular physical measurements mean in terms of how well the hard-of-hearing actually hear with hearing aids.

The person best qualified to maximize the effectiveness of a hearing aid for the vast majority of persons, after all possible medical assistance has been rendered, is the hearing aid dealer, whose total experience in applying hearing aids far exceeds that of any other group. He can select and adjust hearing aids, provide the important accessories required, such as earmolds, and can render the after-sale counsel and the continuing service over the life of the hearing aid so vital to the hearing aid user.

It would be a great disservice to the hard-of-hearing public to have them believe that their problems would be



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solved by obtaining technical specifications for hearing aids from an additional source that are already available from practically every hearing aid manufacturer on request.

*S. F. Lybarger, President  
Hearing Aid Industry Conference, Inc.  
Cannonsburg, Pa.*

## Anarchy or alchemy

Sir:

Your magazine (SN: 9/14, p. 267) carried a statement by the American Sociological Association. This organization said that the annual conventions for the next eight years would not be held in Chicago. This action was the result of the police action against anti-war protesters during the Democratic Convention. The association said that "reasonable protests" were disdained.

However, I am of the opinion that these "reasonable protests" were far from reasonable and bordered on outright anarchy. Many of the protesters had their passage and living-expenses paid while in Chicago, with further training in riot techniques. According to one protester, they had been taught how to upset the police so as to provoke an assault. In turn, the publicity would be used to discredit the police, the city of Chicago and create more turmoil and resentment among organized social groups—such as the American Sociological Association.

The irony of the situation is that the rioting may have been planned by someone with knowledge of psychology and sociology, so as to create the effect cited.

*Kenneth Larson  
Culver City, Calif.*

## Radiography

Sir:

We appreciate your report on our paper on Neutron Radiography (SN: 10/12, p. 365) presented at the ARRS meeting. Neutron radiography is not a substitute but should be considered as a complementary technique to conventional X-radiography, and the statement that "Small neutron generators are not available that can provide fast neutron . . ." should have read, "Small neutron generators are now available that can provide fast neutron. . ."

*M. Brown, M.D./MPS  
Medical College of Georgia  
Augusta*

*P. B. Parks, Ph.D.  
E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Co.  
Aiken, S.C.*

## Rats

Sir:

I was somewhat amused when I read Christopher Weathersbee's article entitled "Song of the Poison Piper" (SN: 10/5, p. 348).

Apparently Weathersbee and Dr. William B. Jackson have a limited knowledge concerning the use of anticoagulant rodenticides in the United States. Some 17 years ago, I completely eliminated all of the rats from Halsey, Ore., using the "new German system" outlined in the article.

After eliminating the rats in Halsey, a small farm town, I know from personal observations that the town remained free of rats for a period of over 18 months.

*Milton H. Buehler  
Springfield, Va.*

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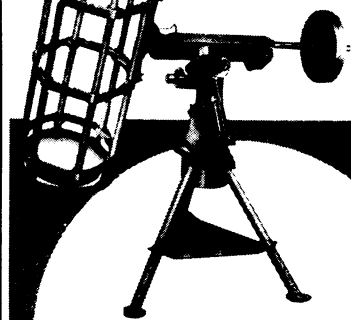
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